

To whom it May concern,

As we are currently in a nationwide lockdown over Covid-19 we are restricted in the types of service that we can provide or carry out. Unless they fall under some very specific requirements we are not able to provide the normal service and would need to defer this type of work until the Government lifts the lockdown.

Would you please read the below information and decide if your job meets the essential requirement. Note: Health, Safety and Sanitation do include.

·       Keeping your house warm EG. Working heater if it is your only heat source.

·       Repairing gas leaks or concerns as to the safe operation of gas appliances

·       No hot water or leaks that cause the shutdown of hot water due to leaks.

·       No water for cooking or sanitation, Eg. Pump failure or water main burst.

·       Sanitation issues as in non-working toilets ( If Only One ), waste water leak, blocked drains.

·       You Are an Essential service in your own right.

If you determine that the request is Essential then would you please email us with your full details along with a small explanation as to why it is essential, so that we can keep that email for proof should we be challenged during the lockdown.

Regards Scott Wyatt,

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**INFORMATION ABOUT WORKING DURING ALERT LEVEL 4 LOCKDOWN**

The government definition of an essential business for the building and construction sector form the COVID-19.org.nz website is:

* Any entity involved in building and construction related to essential services and critical infrastructure, including those in the supply and support chain.
* Any entity involved in any work required to address immediate health or life safety risks, or to prevent serious environmental harm, and relevant essential supply chain elements.
* Any entity with statutory responsibilities or that is involved in building and resource consenting necessary for the above purposes.

This means your business may be essential if it provides one of the following essential services:

* Supply of electricity, gas, water, waste water ( sanitation)
* Building and construction required immediately to
* Maintain human health and safety
* Avoid significant environmental harm
* Ensure the continuation or prevent the failure of an essential service.
* Regulatory service in relation to building consenting, compliance and resource consenting necessary for essential services outlined above.

In many cases, businesses are only essential while they are carrying out an essential service. Once the essential service is complete that business goes back to being non-essential.

**DECIDING WHETHER A SERVICE IS ESSENTIAL:**

To decide whether the service you are planning to provide, or need to have carried out is essential, you should apply the essential service definition provided by the Government to make responsible decisions.

As per [www.covid-19.org.nz](http://www.covid-19.org.nz) an essential service may be any of the business types stated here: <https://covid19.govt.nz/government-actions/current-covid-19-alert-level/essential-businesses/>

The responsibility is on the person carrying out the building or construction work to ensure that the work they are completing meets the essential service definition. If you supply products or materials, you may need to take steps to ensure they are being used for an essential service or activity. Information about what to ask your customers is provided in the information for building and construction retailers and supply chain section here:  <https://www.building.govt.nz/covid-19/#jumpto-information-for-building-and-construction-retailers-and-supply-chain>

**CHECKLIST TO DETERMINE AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE:** *To aid your decision making, we encourage you to ask yourself the following questions:*

***1****.*

1. *Is the work required immediately to ensure the continuation of an essential service, or prevent the failure of an essential service or*
2. *Is the work required immediately to ensure health, safety and wellbeing of people, or avoid significant environmental harm?*

***2.*** *Is the work you are performing the bare minimum required to meet the criteria above?*

If you answered yes to both of these questions, your work may be considered essential, however it is important to assess your specific situation and satisfy yourself that the criteria in the Government definition of essential services has been met.

All non-urgent work should be deferred to a later date. If your work is not essential or you’re unsure if it is essential- you should defer the work to when the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. New Zealand needs to restrict movement and human contact as much as possible to slow the spread of the virus.

**INFORMATION FOR INDUSTRY:**

**Q: WHAT CAN I DO AS A TRADESPERSON ( PLUMBER, ELECTRICIAN, CARPENTER, FIRE SYSTEM SERVICE PROVIDER ) ?**

**A:** Under a level 4 alert, trades people undertaking work related to essential business or infrastructure are expected to be working outside of the self-isolation protocol. The exception to this may be where tradespeople are required to undertake emergency work where the need is immediate and required to maintain health and safety. Situations may include:

* Responding to alarm or defect notifications from fire alarm or sprinkler systems in occupied buildings, essential service buildings or critical infrastructure.
* Responding to a request from Fire and Emergency New Zealand for an emergency call out to a building.
* The repair or replacement of a failed hot water cylinder required for sanitation purposes.
* The unblocking and repair or replacement of sanitary waste or water supply pipes to maintain human health and safety.
* The repair or replacement of electrical installations or equipment where there is an immediate threat to the human health and safety
* The securing of roofs or structures where there is an immediate threat to human health and safety.

Examples of non-emergency work would be:

* Weekly test runs of the fire sprinkler diesel pump
* Finishing the lining of a client’s house
* Pouring a concrete slab to get ahead while the country is in lockdown
* Replacing tap washers
* Routine servicing of non-essential equipment or infrastructure.
* Replacement of sanitary fixtures that are working.

**Q: IS HEATING INSTALLATION CONSIDERED AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE?**

**A:** The ability to heat an occupied home or building is considered a ‘necessity of life’ and so is considered an essential service. Installers need to be satisfied that the installation of heating is needed and there is no other functioning heat source.

If an occupied home or building has an existing functioning heating system an upgrade to this heating system during COVID-19 alert level 4 would NOT be considered an essential service.

The installation of some heating systems (for example wood burners) require council consent and a code compliance certificate before they can be used. If this process cannot be completed by your local council under the current Covid-19 restrictions, you will have to use an alternative form of heating.